



BY U.S. MAIL,
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

December 20, 2012

Mr. Alex Sneed
Pollution Response Coordinator
Southwest Regional Office
Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
355-A Deadmore Street
Abingdon, Virginia 24210

RE: **Virginia City Hybrid Energy Center - Unauthorized Discharge Five Day Letter;**
IR# 2013-S-1480

Dear Mr. Sneed:

This letter is provided as a written report for the unauthorized discharge of post-treatment wastewater (reclaim water) at the Virginia City Hybrid Energy Center (VCHEC).

On December 16, 2012 at approximately 10:25A.M., a driver was filling a water truck from the reclaim water filling station, which is located onsite near the ash haul truck scale. Once the truck was full, the driver closed the valve to stop flow, as is a normal part of the process. Upon closing the valve, a sub-grade coupling over pressurized and ruptured, allowing reclaim water to fill the manhole, within which the coupling is located, and overflow into a clean water ditch. The water flowed down the ditch, making its way into Meade Creek.

Station personnel were dispatched immediately to isolate the water line. The water line is equipped with two isolation valves. One is located in the then-flooded manhole where the coupling failed. The other is located on the Russell Creek pipe bridge, access to which had been blocked by newly installed fencing. It took station personnel approximately 73 minutes to evaluate the situation, coordinate access to the pipe bridge valve and isolate the water line. Within that period of time, an estimated 77,000 gallons of water is believed to have discharged from the manhole.

A walkdown of the discharge path, including the ditch and Meade Creek was conducted on December 17, 2012. No erosion, other damages or indications that the biology of the waterway had been affected were noted. A verbal notification was made to DEQ's Southwest Regional Office on December 17, 2012 at 10:10 A.M.

A root cause analysis discovered that the failed coupling's pressure rating was too close to the water line's actual pressure. To ensure this situation does not recur, a new coupling with a higher pressure rating will be installed. Additional corrective actions include reconfiguring the isolation valve in the manhole to allow operation from above grade and installing a gate in the chain link fence to allow easy access to the valve located at the pipe bridge.

Based on the December 18, 2012 phone conversation between you and Dominion's Rick Woolard and Geoffrey Hensley, Dominion understands this case will be closed upon receipt of this letter and no additional actions will required. If you have questions or require additional detail, please contact Mr. Rick Woolard at (804) 273-2991 or at rick.woolard@dom.com.

I certify under penalty of law that this document and all attachments were prepared under my direction or supervision in accordance with a system designed to assure that qualified personnel properly gather and evaluate the information submitted. Based on my inquiry of the person or persons who manage the system, or those persons directly responsible for gathering the information, the information submitted is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment for knowing violations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Cathy C. Taylor".

Cathy C. Taylor
Director, Electric Environmental Services

Mr. Alex Sneed
December 20, 2012
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Please scan signed original + attachments and rename file as:
VC – 2012 12-20 Five Day Ltr

Please send renamed electronic copy to:

Doug Holley

Pam Faggert

Sidney Bragg

Karen Canody

Ken Roller

Glenn Johnson *GPJ*

Rick Woolard *RAW*

Preston Sloane

Geoffrey Hensley *- Approved via email*

Stacie Jenkins

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